

REMARKS

Applicant, by the amendments presented above and the arguments presented below, has made a concerted effort to present claims which clearly define over the prior art of record, and thus to place this case in condition for allowance. Claims 2-6, 8-12, 14, 16-20, 22 and 26-27 are currently pending. Claims 2-6, 8-12, 14, 16-20 and 22 have been allowed. Claims 1, 7, 13, 15, 21 and 23-25 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2-6, 8-12, 14 and 16-22 have been allowed. Applicant notes that claim 21 was cancelled in a previous Amendment and, therefore, is of the understanding that this claim should not have been allowed.

Claims 26 and 27 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if they were rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Thus, Applicant has amended claims 26 into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim, namely claim 23. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of independent claim 26.

Applicant also respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claim 27 as it is dependent upon independent claim 26, which Applicant contends is in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

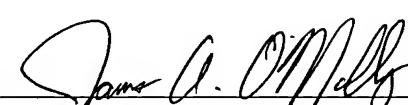
Claims 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 3,380,160 to Kirchberger et al. in view of United States Patent No. 4,922,615 to Nishida. Applicant has cancelled claims 23-25 herein and, therefore, considers this rejection moot.

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the application are allowable over the rejections of the Examiner. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact one of the undersigned attorneys at (312) 704-1890.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


Richard A. Giangiorgi, Reg. No. 24,284
Linda L. Palomar, Reg. No. 37,903
James A. O'Malley, Reg. No. 45,952
TREXLER, BUSHNELL, GIANGIORGI,
BLACKSTONE & MARR, LTD.
105 W. Adams Street, 36th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60603
(312) 704-1890

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